

Bloomington Arts Commission

October 19, 2016

Attending: Alain Barker, Martina Celerin, Gabe Colman, Sally Gaskill, Peter Jacobi, Angelo Pizzo Lynn Schwartzberg; Sean Starowitz, staff.

1. Sally Gaskill called the meeting to order at 5:02pm. Lynn brought treats!
2. We approved the minutes of the September meeting.
3. We discussed the final reports submitted for Arts Project Grants.
4. Sean Starowitz gave his staff report. He recently attended the Next Generation Rural Creative Placemaking Summit at Iowa State University, sponsored by the Rural Policy Research Institute, his former employer. The Focus of the conference was Rural Creative Placemaking and public policy. The conference brought together approximately 300 policy makers, artists, farmers, activists, and community groups. In addition, the City has recently been able to put in motion no fewer than three murals, as follows Vectren Mural on 4th and the B-Line, Rhino's Teen Mural Crew on 11th and Rogers with support from the BUEA, and Civil Streets and Bicycle Garage INC., in People's Park.
5. Sally Gaskill's chair's report: advocacy. Commissioners discussed the Indiana Lieutenant Governor Candidate Forum held in Bloomington at the WTIU studios two nights prior. It was well attended and is being broadcast this evening at 8pm on WFIU, just prior to the final presidential debate. One of the two candidates will be our next Lieutenant Governor, and we will have concrete statements on the record about her intended support of the arts.
6. Strategic planning:

Over the next several Commission meetings, we hope to update the BAC's strategic plan. At the end we will address the project grants program, and if it should be modified in any way as a result of the plan. Sally noted that a city official recently stated that this is a prime time to advocate for the arts with the city administration.

Sean led a strategic planning discussion. We should weave components of the Public Art Master Plan into the new BAC strategic plan.

In terms of overall advocacy, there are at least two avenues to consider, based on the Mayor's objectives: (1) advocate to increase the % for Art plan. (2) advocate to set aside a small percentage of the potential Food & Beverage tax for the arts.

In terms of % for Art, we should consider using any increase as a general fund for the arts, not just public art

There are two new developments: Trades District & Switchyard Park, as well as conversations about the City and IU bicentennials. There could be some exciting public art opportunities.

BAC members could also advocate Community Foundation to fund more arts.

We need goals for each year of the three-year plan. What do we want to see?

Ideas for 2017:

Martina and Gabe: Create more awareness of the type of public-private partnership that we helped facilitate last year (public art)

Alain: Early Fall 'Season Opener' with city and campus, branding Bloomington as a destination for the arts.

Alain: Create a community Arts Awards program

Jan: We need to keep accessibility & diversity at the forefront - they align with the Mayor's priorities. Provide tangibles as to how to address them.

Sean requested that BAC members attend the BEAD Advisory Council whenever possible to provide continuity between the two groups.

The BEAD will keep its geographic boundaries, but is having conversations with CD's in other parts of the state. It could be incorporated and/or managed by another entity. The City will support the arts throughout the community, not just downtown. As a city, how do we incentivize the arts to be in every neighborhood?

Sean has been working with local businesses - e.g., Kroger, Secretly Canadian, others. "I try to be on the ground and listen to ideas and connect efforts." The BAC is needed to advocate for these efforts.

Jan: This is exciting!

Sean: There is an opportunity to re-think the BAC's grants program; divide it up by chunks.

7. At the conclusion of the meeting, Commissioners shared several upcoming arts events.
8. The meeting adjourned at 5:28.